

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A device for protection against voltage surges in an electric power supply line, comprising:

a fast-blow ~~in short circuit~~ Zener diode lightning arrestor (1, 1') that forms a short circuit when the arrestor has blown and a varistor (3), whose respective connection terminals are common and which are arranged in parallel, one of the connection terminals (c, c') common to the arrestor and the varistor (1, 1', 3) being connected to the line (5, 7) to be protected, and the other connection terminal (d, d') being connected to earth or to a common conductor element.

2. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 1, further comprising a disconnecter (6, 6') between the varistor (3) and the line (5, 7) to be protected.

3. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 1, further comprising a disconnecter (4) upstream of the connection terminal connected to the line (5, 7) to be protected.

4. (previously presented) A device for protection against voltage surges in an electric power supply line, comprising:

a Zener diode lightning arrester and a varistor, the arrester and varistor having respective connection terminals that are common and arranged in parallel, one of the connection terminals being connected to a line to be protected and the other connection terminal being connected to one of earth and a common conductor element; and

an envelope of substantially cylindrical shape having two ends that are metal rings insulated from one another constituting said connection terminals.

5. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 4, wherein the Zener diode lightning arrester is arranged along a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical envelope.

6. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 4, wherein the varistor has the shape of a tube which is disposed around the Zener diode lightning arrester so that a longitudinal axis of the tube merges with the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical envelope.

7. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 6, wherein inner and outer surfaces of the varistor are respectively in contact with an inner metal tube and an outer metal tube which form electrodes of the varistor and which are respectively in contact with the metal rings.

8. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 7, wherein a connection between one of the metal rings and the outer tube is ensured by welding spots whose volume and number

are such that they are adapted to melt under the effect of a voltage surge so as to perform a function of a disconnecter.

9. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 7, wherein a space inside said inner tube is filled with an insulating and resistant product.

10. (previously presented) A device for protection against voltage surges in an electric power supply line, comprising:

a Zener diode lightning arrestor and a varistor whose respective connection terminals are common and that are arranged in parallel, one of the connection terminals being connected to a line to be protected and the other of the connection terminals being connected to one of earth and a common conductor element; and

a connector support which comprises means for respectively receiving the arrestor and the varistor and which ensures their connection in parallel as well as the connection of their respective connection terminals with terminals of the device.

11. (currently amended) A device for protection against voltage surges in an electric power supply line, comprising:

a Zener diode and a varistor having respective connection terminals that are common and that are arranged in parallel, first ones of the connection terminals being connected to a line to be protected and second ones of the connection

terminals being connected to one of earth and a common conductor element,

said Zener diode and said varistor having characteristics so that when a voltage at the first connection terminal of the varistor reaches an avalanche value of the Zener diode, the device continues to conduct current until ~~a blow-out power of the~~ said Zener diode is reached has blown.

12. (previously presented) The device of claim 11, wherein said Zener diode and said varistor are in a generally cylindrical envelope, and wherein said connection terminals are metal rings at ends of said cylindrical envelope.

13. (previously presented) The device of claim 11, wherein said Zener diode and said varistor are in a generally rectangular envelope.